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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023900

FOLLOWING SENT TEL AVIV JERUSALEM PARIS USUN FEB 1 FEB 75
FROM SECSTATE

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023900

NESCO GENEVA FOR BUFFUM

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND UN AGENCIES

1. ISRAELI EMBASSY MINISTER SHALEV CALLED ON IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM JANUARY 31 TO FOLLOW UP ON JANUARY 24 EXCHANGE (STATE 18032) AND LAY OUT GOI POSITION ON HANDLING OF ISRAELI ISSUES IN UNESCO. SHALEV BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT WHILE GOI REGARDS THIS DEVELOPMENT AS UNFORTUNATE, FACT THAT IT CREATED REACTION IT DID IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE PROVIDES SOME HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE HESITATION TO REPEAT ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ("IT MAY BE THE EVIL WHICH EVENTUALLY BRINGS SOME GOOD.") HE SAID IT THEREFORE WOULD BE AN ERROR TO REDUCE EFFECTS OF UNESCO ACTIONS BY GLOSSING OVER AND TRYING TO RESTORE SOME DEGREE OF RELATIONS SHORT OF REVERSAL OF REGRETABLE ACTIONS.EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED INSTEAD TOWARD MOVING AT APPROPRIATE TIME WITHIN
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APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK TO REPEAL BOTH THE RESOLUTION

EXCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNESCO PROJECTS IN ISRAEL AND THE RESOLUTION EXCLUDING ISRAEL FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. MEANWHILE, STRONG LEAD TAKEN FIRST BY U.S. DELEGATION AT UNESCO CONFERENCE, AND THEN BY U.S. CONGRESS HAS HAD GREAT EFFECT ON OTHER NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS, AND THIS REACTION SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO HAVE ITS EVENTUAL EFFECT.

2. SHALEV REMARKED THAT ISRAEL HAS IMPRESSION UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL SEES DEVELOPMENT AS ATTACKS ON THEM. FACT IS, OF COURSE, THAT IT IS UNESCO MEMBERS, AND NOT SECRETARIAT OR DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE. BUFFUM CONCURRED IN THIS, ADDING M'BOW AS NEW MAN IS UNDERSTANDABLY SENSITIVE TO FEELING THAT UNESCO UNDER ATTACK. BUFFUM EXPRESSED AGREEMENT THAT A BASIC OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO HAVE UNESCO UNDO ACTIONS WHICH WE REGARD AS WRONG, BUT SAID HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR ABOUT IMPLICATION OF ISRAELI POSITION SO FAR AS NEXT STEPS ARE CONCERNED. HE OBSERVED THAT U.S. IS UNDER SPECIFIC DIRECTIVE FROM CONGRESS NOT TO OBLIGATE FUNDS FOR UNESCO, AND DEPARTMENT NOW MUST CONSIDER THE STEPS TO IMPLEMENT CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE IN A PRODUCTIVE WAY.

3. ELABORATING, BUFFUM TOLD SHALEV WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO REDRESS BOTH ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. ON CUTOFF OF FUNDS TO ISRAEL, WE WISH TO EXPLORE WHETHER UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD MIGHT BE COMPETENT TO RECOMMEND FUNDS BE RESTORED IN WAY WHICH WOULD ENABLE SECRETARY GENERAL TO RESUME PAYMENTS. SHALEV RAISED ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING POLL OF UNESCO MEMBERSHIP AND BUFFUM AGREED THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE RESEARCHED. ON REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP, BUFFUM NOTED THAT INTENT CLEARLY WAS THAT EVERY UNESCO MEMBER SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A REGIONAL GROUP, AND GIVEN SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST, EUROPEAN GROUP WAS BEST PLACE FOR ISRAEL. HOWEVER, HE REMARKED THAT U.S. AND CANADA WERE BARRED FROM EUROPEAN GROUP FOR 10 YEARS. WHILE IT IS PREROGATIVE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE TO DECIDE MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUFFUM SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF MOBILIZING CLEAR MAJORITY WITHIN EUROPEAN GROUP IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP, WHICH WOULD LAY FOUNDATION FOR FORMALIZING DECISION AT 1976 GENERAL CONFERENCE. WHILE U.S. UNDERSTANDS ISRAELI DESIRE NOT TO WEAKEN FORCE OF REACTIONS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED, BUFFUM SAID HE ASSUMED ISRAEL WOULD NOT OBJECT TO EFFORTS BY US TO TRY TO GET UNDER WAY REMEDIAL ACTIONS.

4. SHALEV SAID THAT IDEA OF REPEAL BY EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS NEW THOUGHT AND, IF PROCEDURALLY POSSIBLE, PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE IDEA WORTH PURSUING. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT RESULT MUST NOT BE HALFWAY MEASURE WHICH SIMPLY WATERED DOWN ISSUE.

5. BUFFUM COMMENTED THAT U.S. AND ISRAELI POINTS OF VIEW MAY DIVERGE SOME ON THIS QUESTION OF HOW TO PROCEED. THRUST OF ISRAELI POSITION SEEMS TO BE THAT, UNTIL UNESCO ACTIONS ARE FORMALLY AND FULLY RESCINDED, ISRAEL WOULD NOT WELCOME ANY HALFWAY MEASURES BECAUSE IT FEELS THAT REACTIONS PRECIPITATED BY UNESCO DECISIONS ERECT INHIBITIONS AGAINST SIMILAR ACTIONS BEING PURSUED ELSEWHERE. SHALEV NODDED ASSENT. BUFFUM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD REASONABLE, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THIS ADVANTAGE HAD TO BE BALANCED AGAINST DISADVANTAGES THERE WILL BE TO ONGOING VALUABLE UNESCO PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE DENIED U.S. FINANCING. HE DID NOT FEEL THIS BALANCE COULD BE WEIGHED UNTIL ISRAELI POSITION IS BETTER KNOWN, VIEWS OF OTHERS HAVE BEEN ASSESSED, AND FEASIBILITY OF TAKING PRACTICAL MEASURES HAS BEEN EXPLORED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REACTIONS TO UNESCO DECISIONS WERE HAVING SALUTARY EFFECT IN DEALING WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND SAID HE PLANNED TO POINT THIS OUT AT GENEVA GROUP MEETING NEXT WEEK. REFUSAL BY MANY INTELLECTUALS TO COLLABORATE ANY LONGER WITH UNESCO HURTS, AND MAY CONTRIBUTE TO HEADING OFF TALK IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ABOUT EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL. SHALEV INTERJECTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT PROBLEM IS NOT SOLELY CONFINED TO ISRAEL BUT REPRESENTS WIDE EFFORT TO TERRORIZE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WITH WEIGHT OF NUMBERS.

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6. IN URGING FURTHER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEM, BUFFUM POINTED OUT THAT BOTH U.S. AND ISRAEL MUST RECOGNIZE THAT QUESTION OF EXCAVATION IN JERUSALEM IS HARD ISSUE WITH STRONG EMOTIONS INVOLVED. HE ALLUDED TO REPORTS UNFAVORABLE TO ISRAEL IN EXCAVATION THAT UNESCO SECRETARIAT REPORTEDLY HAS IN ITS POSSESSION, WHICH WOULD BE INFLAMMATORY IF DISSEMINATED, EMPHASIZING OUR VIEW THAT M'BOW IS CONDUCTING HIMSELF IN HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

7. SUMMING UP, BUFFUM SAID IT IS U.S. VIEW THAT IF UNESCO COULD BE BROUGHT TO TAKE SOME SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO REVERSE DECISIONS AFFECTING ISRAEL, THIS ITSELF WOULD HAVE SALUTARY EFFECT AS A DISPLAY OF RECOGNITION BY UNESCO OF THE NEED TO BACKTRACK. MOREOVER, THIS WOULD

REINFORCE IMPACT OF REACTIONS FROM WHICH ISRAEL BELIEVES
IT BENEFITS. SHALEV OBSERVED IN CLOSING THAT SUCH
ACTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE REMEDY TO SITUATION AND NOT
JUST PUSH THINGS UNDER RUG. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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